

**Remarks**

The 8/16/04 response was filed by the applicants with the Patent Office in response to a non-final office action received for the application dated July 14, 2004 ("July 14, 2004 office action"). A review of the 8/16/04 response shows that this document is a response to the July 14, 2004 office action, and not an "amendment document." In fact, no claim amendments were made in the 8/16/04 response. The 8/16/04 response states (page 2), in part:

**"In the Claims**

There are no claim amendments. The claims are reproduced simply to facilitate discussion."

In view of this, and of the fact that 37 CFR 1.121 is a federal regulation that governs the manner of making amendments in patent applications, the applicants respectfully submit that the Notice is improper, and should not have been generated, in connection with the 8/16/04 response.

The most recent claim amendments that were made by the applicants in the application were made in a "Response to Final Office Action dated 21 Jan. 2004," which has a "Date of Deposit" date of April 21, 2004 hand-written thereon ("April 21, 2004 response"). In this response, claim 82 was canceled, claim 88 was added and claims 79, 86 and 87 were amended. The Examiner stated in a subsequent Advisory Action dated May 10, 2004 that the amendments made in the April 21, 2004 response "will not be entered." However, the subsequent July 14, 2004 office action (generated after the filing by the applicants of a "Request for Continued Examination") states (page 1) that, "Claim(s) 79-81 and 83-88 is/are pending in the application." This statement shows that the amendments that had been made in the April 21, 2004 response have been entered by the Examiner in the application.

In order to expedite the prosecution of the application, the applicants have set forth hereinabove a complete listing of all of the claims that have ever been presented in the application in a manner that complies with 37 CFR

1.121 (in its current version). No new claim amendments are being made in this response.

In view of the claim listing that is set forth hereinabove, which complies with 37 CFR 1.121, and in view of the remarks set forth herein, Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office determine that the 8/16/04 response is compliant, and provide the applicants with a written communication that provides such a determination.

**Conclusion**

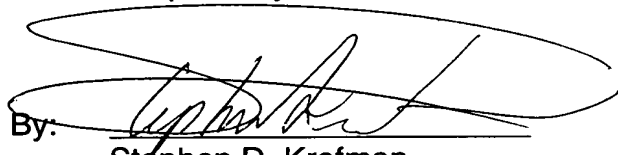
Claims 79-81 and 83-88 are currently pending in the application. Claim 88 was allowed by the Examiner in the July 14, 2004 office action (pages 3-4).

In view of the above claim listing and remarks, and in view of the remarks set forth in the 8/16/04 response, which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow pending claims 79-81 and 83-87 of the application, and pass the application to issue. The applicants request the withdrawal of all current claim rejections, and believe that the claims as presented contain allowable subject matter.

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